

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 4 are presently pending in this case. Claims 1 and 4 are allowed, and Claims 2-3 and 5-6 are canceled by the present amendment. No new matter is presented.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 2-3 and 5-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement; Claims 2-3 and 5-6 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Na (U.S. Patent No. 6,112,069) in view of Yamamoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,483,000); and Claims 1 and 4 are allowed.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowed Claims 1 and 4. In the spirit of moving prosecution forward for the present application, Claims 2-3 and 5-6 are canceled and the rejections thereto rendered moot. However, Applicants reserve the right to present Claims 2-3 and 5-6, or similar claims, in a continuation application and to address any traversed issues in such application.

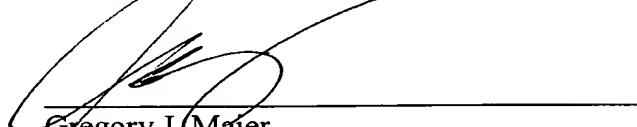
The present amendment is submitted in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, which after Final Rejection permits entry of amendments, canceling rejected claims or complying with requirements of form set forth in a previous Office Action. As the present amendment merely cancels rejected Claims 2-3 and 5-6, it is respectfully requested that the present amendment be entered.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1 and 4 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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